Tourism Development in Maharashtra

990. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited tourist spots in Maharashtra during 1990-91 upto the 30th June, 1991;

(b) the steps being taken to develop tourist spots to promote tourist traffic in this State;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ajanta and Ellora are among the 13 sites recognised by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites;

(d) whether Government are aware that as compared to other tourist attraction centres in India, only half of the foreign tourists visit Ellora and Ajanta every year;

(e) if so, what are the reason therefor; and

(f) what is the total amount given by the Central Government to Maharashtra for the tourism development programmes in the State during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Relevant statistics are not available from the State Government.

(b) The development of tourist spots to promote tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No comparison is possible in the absence of reliable statistics.

(f) The Central Government sanctioned Rs. 8.3 lakhs and Rs. 142.61 lakhs for tourism development programmes in Maharashtra during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

Setting up of Local Power Generators in the Country

991. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage local power generators with low capacity to cater to the needs of local areas throughout the country.

(b) if so, what is the stage of this proposal; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative what steps are taken by Government to augment power supply in the country and to minimise the hazards of power failure and load shedding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The electricity systems of generation and distribution are organised on the basis of integrated grids covering each State and State grids further integrated into regional grids with the country being covered by five regions. Apart from having large hydel, thermal and nuclear generating stations, the State governments are also taking steps to utilise available generating possibilities by mini and micro hydel stations and wind farms. Electricity generated from these small generating units are also fed into grids and distributed throughout the State. In establishing generation facilities both the availability of suitable sites near the load centres as well as the natural endowment of hydel and coal deposits are taken into account.